

would also like to thank the West Georgia Board of Realtors for taking the time to honor the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Not only do they honor the Fair Housing Act today, they honor it every single day while they serve the citizens of Georgia.

In the midst of a national mourning, The Fair Housing Act landed on President Lyndon B. Johnson's desk just a week after Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. The Fair Housing Act allowed Americans to become home owners no matter their race, religion, sex, or national origin. This had a large impact on the African American community, this allowed them to become first-time home owners. Thus, providing better care for themselves and family.

This Act represents a big triumph for the people, to be heard and to promote the change of an unjust environment. There is still a lot of work to be done, but I am proud of what we have achieved. In 1988 Congress amended the Fair Housing Act to protect disabled citizens and familial status. We have come a long way, but our fight must continue. We must never forget the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and continue to be a champion for justice and equality for all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 16 DAYS
OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-
BASED VIOLENCE

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2018

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, a campaign to raise awareness and spur action to end violence against women and girls.

Over the past year, with the explosion of the #MeToo and Time's Up movements, women around the world have come forward with their own harrowing stories of sexual violence—an abuse of power that often causes emotional and physical distress and harms their ability to care for their family. One in three women worldwide will experience gender-based violence in their lifetimes, ranging from sexual violence and human trafficking to harmful practices like child marriage. The statistics are staggering—nearly 39,000 girls under 18 are married each day and over 200 million women and girls have been subjected to female genital mutilation.

Gender-based violence continues to hold women back from reaching their full potential. In 2012, the United States government released the Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally, marking ending violence against women and girls as top diplomatic and foreign assistance priorities. On the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, let's reinforce our commitment to ensuring the safety of women and girls and recommit to women's empowerment worldwide.

Remember this: when women and girls succeed, their nations succeed.

HONORING JAKE VREEBURG

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a dedicated member of my staff, Jake Vreeburg, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Jake has been a part of our team for the past four years, first as our Legislative Director and then as the Staff Director for the House Republican Policy Committee. Jake writes, reviews, and edits the Legislative Digest, a daily summary of legislation considered by the House of Representatives and distributed to 2,500 staff and Members. As Legislative Director, he led efforts to build support for programs, bills, and events that advanced my legislative agenda. Jake has been a close confidant and trusted adviser throughout my time in Congress.

On a personal note, Jake is a gifted leader who was far more than an advisor to me. He is my friend. I admire Jake's integrity, persistence and loyalty. I wish Jake continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family. I have no doubt Jake's biggest impact on our nation are yet to come. I look forward to cheering Jake on in those efforts.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING EQ-
UITY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill, the Federal Government Advertising Equity Accountability Act, to require all federal agencies to include in their annual budget requests to Congress the amount they spend on advertising contracts with small disadvantaged businesses (SDBs) and businesses owned by minorities and women. Federal agencies would be required to provide prior, current, and projected total expenditures for advertising contracts.

In 2007, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined spending on advertising contracts with minority-owned businesses by five agencies—the Department of Defense, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of the Interior, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—and found that only five percent of the \$4.3 billion available for advertising contracts went to minority businesses. In light of these concerning figures, several of my colleagues and I sent a letter to the GAO in April 2016 requesting updated information on the amount of federal advertising dollars spent with SDBs and businesses owned by minorities and women. That GAO report, released in July of this year, showed that in fiscal year 2017, only 16 percent of the federal government's advertising contract obligations went to SDBs and businesses owned by minorities and women.

The federal government is the largest advertiser in the United States, and it has an obligation to ensure fair access to its contracts for

SDBs and businesses owned by minorities and women. The GAO's findings make it clear that there is still much progress to be made.

The regular collection of information on federal advertising contract obligations to SDBs and businesses owned by women and minorities, along with the provision of this information to legislators and stakeholders, is essential to bridging the divide between current statistics and a more inclusive advertising landscape. My bill would achieve these goals while also promoting transparency and encouraging federal agencies to strive to reach minorities, who often receive their daily news from smaller media outlets that serve communities of color. The requirement that agencies submit prior, current, and projected information regarding the amount of advertising dollars spent with SDBs and businesses owned by minorities and women will allow federal agencies to evaluate their progress over time. The regular collection of this information will also demonstrate that the promotion of equity in advertising, and in all areas of government, should be a continuous effort that is central to the mission of every agency.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CONGRATULATING GARY PERINAR
ON RECEIVING THE GEORGE
MEANY AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gary Perinar who is being honored with the George Meany Award in recognition of his incredible contributions to the community and the working families of union trades. Mr. Perinar currently serves as executive secretary-treasurer of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, which consists of more than 30,000 workers pursuing careers in the trades.

Mr. Perinar completed his apprenticeship with the Carpenters Local 174 before going on to become a 40-year member as a third-generation business representative of the union. During Mr. Perinar's stellar career he has taken on multiple roles, such as becoming a full-time business representative at the age of 32 and then assistant to the president. In addition, Mr. Perinar performed multiple leadership roles on various committees and boards while serving as both a vice president and a delegate on the Regional Council. Under the leadership of Mr. Perinar, an emphasis was placed on both character and skills development in order to embody responsible citizenship. Mr. Perinar recognizes the investment that must be made in young people looking to build a career in the trades and I would like to congratulate him on all his efforts and accomplishments.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as Mr. Gary Perinar that I am especially proud to serve Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Mr. Gary Perinar on earning the George Meany Award for his exceptional service and thank him for all his contributions to the community.